

THE OFFICIAL BEE GEES FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL BEE GEES FAN CLUB, P.O. Box 9488, N. Hollywood, CA 91606



THE BEE GEES FAN CLUB

Keeping up with the Bee Gees is almost impossible to do! There's the recording of their new album, the recent Grammy Awards, the newest addition to the Gibb family, film and performance plans and much, much more. Even with all this activity, we had a chance to chat recently with Barry, Maurice and Robin between sessions on their new album. They had quite a lot to say and we've got a lot to report, so let's get on with it!

It is turning into a regular occurrence with each newsletter to report on a new member of the Gibb clan and this issue of the newsletter is no exception. The newest Gibb is Travis Ryan Crompton, Barry and Lynda's third son, who was born early in the morning on January 10th. Travis is a beautiful baby as you can see from the photo, although he did give his parents a bit of a scare at first. Travis was born a month premature, weighing in at 4 lbs., 5 oz. After a short stay in the hospital and a bit of a pneumonia scare, he's home, healthy and gaining weight rapidly.



PHOTO: BOB SHERMAN

One humorous story that Barry related to us was how the baby was named. Apparently, Barry and Lynda couldn't decide on a name and Stevie repeatedly told his parents

how much he liked the name Travis. Well, Stevie's persistence paid off and Travis it was. Where did the name come from? According to Barry, he thinks Stevie got the name from watching the Walt Disney Film, "Old Yeller." It turns out the owner of the dog in the film was named Travis. Luckily for Barry and Lynda, Stevie wasn't watching "Star Wars." Darth Gibb anyone?

Before discussing the Bee Gees new album, we should mention that Barry, Maurice and Robin have amicably parted ways with their long-time band members, Blue Weaver, Dennis Bryon and Allan Kendall. The Bee Gees are taking a newer approach musically and Blue, Dennis and Allan decided it was time to pursue their own various solo pursuits. It was a friendly split and we wish the best of luck to everyone.



PHOTO: GARY KUFNER

BEE GEES CLASSIC UNDERWAY

While the Bee Gees new album is still in its earliest formative stages, everyone is convinced that this will be the best album that Barry, Maurice and Robin have ever done. And you can hear the excitement when the Bee Gees talk about the album themselves. As Barry told us, "We're really excited about it. We want to keep it as a surprise. This album is going to be a mixture of all kinds of sounds!" There are going to be solos from Robin and Maurice. Maurice echoed Barry's feelings when he said, "I think it's one of the best things we've ever done. The

songs are incredible. We're exploring other areas of our voices and experimenting quite a bit."

In fact, experimentation appears to be the key to the new album. The Bee Gees are approaching recording in an entirely new way. As Robin explained, "This album is purely experimental, that's why it's taking such a long time. It's being built just like a jigsaw puzzle is. The songs are not just being played. Most of the songs are being written in the studio as we go along." To add to the new sounds and textures that the Bee Gees are striving for are a variety of the top studio musicians in the country. Among the players being used are Richard Tee on piano and Steven Gadd on drums (both played on the recent Barbra Streisand album that Barry co-produced) and Jeff Porcaro of Toto. And these musicians are having a marked effect on the album's sound. As Maurice put it, "We're going for different sounds both instrumentally and vocally and using different musicians changes your textures."

Adding to the experimentation is the fact that the Bee Gees are recording the new album in their own ultra-modern Middle Ear Studio. This, too, is having an effect on the album. As Barry explained, "The sounds we are getting in the studio are simply astounding. They're 100 percent different than anything we've come up with previously. You'll hear the difference." As you can see, this promises to be "the" album that all other pop albums will be judged against upon its release.



BARRY PICKS UP ANOTHER GRAMMY

"I go to the Grammys with the feeling that it's nice to be included among the cream of show business. This year as an extra added bonus I've got something to remember the Barbra Streisand album by." These were Barry's thoughts on winning the Grammy with Barbra Streisand for Best Pop Vocal Performance By A Duo or Group while attending the Awards ceremony. It was an exciting night for everyone. Besides Barry and Robin, Andy also attended

the ceremonies which took place in New York at the Radio City Music Hall on February 25th. In all, Barry was responsible for 5 awards, including one with Robin. Besides the Best Pop Vocal Award, the nominations were for: Record of the Year/"Woman In Love," Album of the Year/"Guilty," Song of the Year/"Woman In Love," and Barbra's nomination for Best Female Vocal/"Woman In Love." In recognition of his Grammy nominations (in which he was the only artist to be nominated in separate categories as a songwriter, performer and producer), Barry was presented with a real Gramophone, by CBS Records.

As for the highlight of the evening, that's easy. When Barry and Barbra appeared as presenters during the middle of the awards ceremony, the packed Music Hall simply went crazy! This just helped to point out the success of "Guilty," which was easily the most popular album of the past year. After the telecast, everyone attended a party given by CBS and as the evening wore on the Gibb Brothers ended up back at their hotel enjoying a late-night jam with country singer Larry Gatlin. It was a pretty exciting evening!

PERFORMANCE PLANS

Since the last issue of the newsletter, the tentative tour plans that the Bee Gees had to tour Europe have been cancelled. The deep commitment to the new Bee Gees album is one reason and as Barry told us, "Touring in the future is going to be much less active. There will always be concerts but I don't think there will be another big tour."

The earliest Bee Gees performance on stage might take place at Wembley Stadium in England at Christmas, this year. If the plans are worked out, the Bee Gees will be performing with a new set of musicians in a concert that will be televised by satellite to approximately twenty countries. After the new album is finished, Maurice said the Bee Gees will tentatively, "slowly put together a new band for the Christmas show. Hopefully we'll rehearse for about six weeks to two months in preparation." The Bee Gees plans for touring the States are also in the planning stages. As always, as soon as anything is formalized, you'll be the first to know.

CELLULOID BECKONS BEE GEES

Discussions have been underway for quite some time for the Bee Gees to return to the silver screen. THE

LEGEND, the motion picture based upon the Bee Gees book, is still being worked upon but as it now stands, the film will not be an animated adaptation of the Bee Gees story. Instead, Barry, Maurice and Robin are going to star in a comedy take-off of their life story. John Cleese of Monty Python is being discussed to help collaborate with the Bee Gees on the project and they hope to include many of Britain's top comedians in the movie. Among the names being mentioned are Benny Hill, Dudley Moore and Peter Cooke. It should be a "legend" of a film!

Barry also has another film project in the planning stages. He is about to sign with the prestigious William Morris Agency and it looks like he will be making his dramatic film debut in a remake of "Face In the Crowd," which originally starred Andy Griffith. Tentatively, the film is due to begin being shot around the end of this year or early next year. Barry is obviously very excited about a film career but has a little trepidation. As he put it, "I feel very good about a film career but I'm slightly terrified about the whole thing. I sort of have an indirect confidence. If enough people show faith in you, you have to pull it off somehow." Something tells us that Barry will more than just pull it off.



PHOTO: BOB SHERMAN

Bee Gees Surprise Hospital

Barry, Maurice and Robin recently paid a surprise visit to the Childrens Hospital in Miami to visit some of their fans. The idea all began when Barry and Lynda paid visits to the hospital to see Travis who had to remain there for a short period after birth. Barry was so touched with the children in the hospital that he suggested to his brothers that they pay a surprise visit there. Shortly after, the Bee Gees showed up unannounced to the surprise and delight of the children. Many of the children simply couldn't believe that their heroes were really there in the flesh. As Maurice told us, "It was a lovely day. We'll go anywhere if we can bring a smile to a kid's face. That was the reason we went."

A bit of happy excitement was created by visiting the

hospital. One of the children that Barry spent time with had only a short time to live and after his visit she improved tremendously. Another child that the Bee Gees saw had just had brain surgery and wasn't responding to her medication. After the Bee Gees visit she, too, has been smiling and responding to treatment. Barry feels that more pop stars should follow the Bee Gees example. "It's really good for the children. It puts them in a good frame of mind." The Bee Gees so enjoyed their visit that day that they are now lining up a tour of childrens hospitals in the future. As Barry explained, "It would be a mini-tour with just us three and a couple of acoustic guitars. It comes back in such a nice way. You can't compare the feeling you get from doing something like this." (No surprise, we always knew they were terrific!)



PHOTO: BOB SHERMAN

SPARE TIME

As you can easily imagine, spare time doesn't play too much importance in the Bee Gees plans at this time. When they do have time off from their recording of the new album, Barry, Maurice and Robin like to go deep-sea fishing on Barry's boat. They all love it and usually go out about once a week. Barry's big love at the moment is tennis. He plays as often as he can and he says that next to music it is his major love. In fact, he is planning on being a spectator at the men's finals at Wimbledon in June this year while spending about a month in England. Maurice, on the other hand, has recently finished installing a small recording studio in his garage. "I have a couple of 8-track machines and all sorts of synthesizers," Maurice told us. "I write non-existent movie themes. I do it for fun and relaxation. As it is, I wouldn't mind doing film scores in the future." Maurice's other love is photography and recently he has been taking photos of all the musicians who have been playing with the Bee Gees. In the future we hope to print a couple of Maurice's favorite shots from his personal collection.

The last break the Bee Gees really had was at Christmas. Maurice and Yvonne spent Christmas in England as did Robin. Barry and Lynda spent the holiday at home in Miami with their family. For New Year's, however, the Bee Gees parents Hugh and Barbara spent the holiday in Miami along with brother Andy and cousin Berri and their grandmother from Australia, Nana Pass.

HERE & NOW

Bee Gees Update

— Quite a few artists have been recording Bee Gees tunes in recent months. Topping the list is country singer Conway Twitty who currently has a smash hit with "Rest Your Love On Me." While in Miami recently, Conway visited with Barry and picked up some new songs to record. Other artists who have recently covered Bee Gees songs are Olivia Newton-John and brother Andy, Rita Coolidge, Eloise Laws, the Osmonds, Donna Fargo, Barbra Mandrell, John Davidson and Elvis Presley. Not bad company to be in!

— After the completion of their new album, Barry, Maurice and Robin will take some time to begin working on various individual projects. Producing other artists is a definite possibility.

— Finally, happy birthday to Maurice's son, Adam who turned five on February 23rd and Melissa, Robin's daughter who turns seven on June 17th.

FUTURE BECKONS BRIGHTLY

We've come to the end of this issue of our Bee Gees newsletter. The future, however, carries with it a great deal of exciting Bee Gees projects. In the upcoming months we'll fill you in on the new Bee Gees album, their exciting film plans, performance announcements and any other activities that Barry, Maurice and Robin undertake. So while the Bee Gees continue to work hard on their new album, stay in touch and we'll be back with the latest news before you know it.



PHOTO: BOB SHERMAN



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